

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2007  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Dana Robinson – Treasurer Position Interview: The Board interviewed Mr. Robinson. He is currently the Treasurer in Petersham.
3. The minutes of the 2/6/07 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
4. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) Mr. Kellner reported that he spoke with Lila Michaud at MRPC regarding prospective grant funds for demolition of 1 School Street. She stated that this year's deadline for a possible grant had already passed.
  - b) Mr. Kellner continues to work on the process of designating Whitney Hall as part of the Historic District.
  - c) An All-Boards meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3/8/07 in Athol.
  - d) Ms. Alger will continue to pursue reimbursement to the Town for work done on the wellhead at the church. She will draft a letter to Skyline Engineering and the church and will suggest a possible three-way split.
  - e) Ms. Alger reported on the last meeting of the Regional Agreement Subcommittee. Recommendations for changes will be presented to the School Committee on 2/28/07.
  - f) Mr. Kellner stated that the Veteran's District will be looking to hire a new Veteran's Agent in the near future due to the retirement of Toni Phillips.
  - g) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request by the Athol Royalston Education Foundation to borrow chairs from the Town Hall on 3/17/07. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - h) Ms. Alger made a motion to approve a signage permit for Jon Hardie. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
5. Department Head Reports:
  - a) DPW –
    - 1) Keith Newton praised Robin Mowrey for the good job he did in supervising the department during his absence.
    - 2) Mr. Newton provided the Board with an agreement for the engineering phase of the Route 32 project as prepared by Chris Mossman of Trowbridge Engineering. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the agreement. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Newton will now proceed with the request for proposals.
    - 3) Mr. Newton has received calls from vendors who are looking for payment of invoices from last season's construction bills. He asked the Board how he should proceed. Discussion was held regarding the current status of the town finances. Mr. West said that the Assessors are still waiting for the state to approve a form, so the earliest that tax bills would be sent out is one month from now. Mr. West will check with the Assessors about their progress. Mr.

Newton suggested that in the future, the financial team should be involved in decisions about large-scale projects in town.

- 4) A problem with the heat exchange system at the Town Hall was discovered recently. Mr. Newton reported that an emergency patch was completed today. The Board recommended that he should work on a temporary fix to the problem and plan for replacement of the system during the next fiscal year.

b) Animal Control Officer –

- 1) Robin Mowrey asked that the Board send a letter to a resident who is in violation of the leash law.
- 2) Mr. West stated that the Board received a letter from the Town of Templeton asking if we'd like to join forces to appoint a Regional Animal Control Officer. Mr. Kellner made a motion to send a response stating that we are not interested. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

6. Old Business:

- a) Interview for Treasurer Position – At 8:20 p.m., the Board interviewed Rebecca Divoll for the position of Treasurer. A discussion followed regarding the qualifications of the three candidates. Ms. Alger made a motion to appoint Sally Zettel to the position of Town Treasurer. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- b) Village School Lease: Risa Richardson stated that she would like the Board to approve a two to three year lease for the Village School. Mr. West recused himself from the discussion and handed over the chairmanship to Mr. Kellner. The Board tabled the matter for the time being so that they can gather relevant financial information.
- c) Whitney Hall High Speed Internet: Discussion was held regarding possible ways to acquire high-speed access at Whitney Hall. Mr. West made a motion to create a Broadband Committee to explore connectivity for Royalston municipal offices, residents, and small businesses and to research ways to fund it. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. The names of possible appointees are Jon Hardie, Becky Krause Hardie, Tom Kellner, Andy West, and Pat Jackson. The first meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 3/14/07 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. A notice regarding the formation of the Committee will be printed in the next newsletter.

7. New Business:

- a) Geoffrey Newton, Inspector of Buildings, requested that the Board authorize him to respond to emergency situations as designated by MEMA and to sign a letter indicating their approval. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve this request and to sign the letter. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
- b) A Strategic Planning Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 3/21/07 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Department heads, Committee chairs, Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee members will be invited to attend.
- c) Mr. West will coordinate a meeting with appropriate department heads and the Board to complete the necessary forms for Service Zone Planning.

8. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

9. At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 6, 2007.